



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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By: Capt. Amy B. Slinker

Three Generations of Alaska Family Serve their Country

FIVE HILLS TRAINING AREA, Mongolia – While approximately 80 Alaska National Guardsmen set foot in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia for Khaan Quest 2012 on Aug. 11, one Soldier's arrival was particularly special.

As Sgt. Michelle D. Brown made her way through the receiving line of U.S. and multinational leaders at Chingiss Khaan International Airport, she approached a face she was more used to seeing at home than abroad. There to greet Michelle was her father, Command Sgt. Maj. Clinton K. Brown II, who welcomed her back to Mongolia to participate once again in the exercise sponsored by U.S. Army Pacific and hosted by the Mongolian Armed Forces.

"This is the second year that Michelle and I have deployed to Khaan Quest together; during Khaan Quest 11 we spent very little time together because her job as a public affairs specialist kept her engaged at the various exercise locations," said Brown. "This year has been a little different; I was able to greet her as she came off the KC-135 [Stratotanker] and she is staying just three miles down the road at one of the command post gers."

Clinton II serves as the Command Sergeant Major for the 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, and Michelle is a public affairs sergeant and print journalist in the 134th Public Affairs Detachment.

Their paths cross frequently while Michelle covers Khaan Quest events this year, including a visit from Secretary of the Army John M. McHugh on Aug. 15.

"My heart swells with pride when I see her in action performing her public affairs duties," said Clinton II. "It was especially great to introduce her to the Secretary of the Army right before she interviewed him for the Armed Forces Network."

Military service runs deep in the Brown family – Clinton II's son, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Clinton K. Brown III, is also part of the Alaska National Guard family. He recently returned home to Anchorage from a successful deployment to Afghanistan with Task Force Odin.

The tradition of military service started with Clinton II's father, Clinton K. Brown I. Clinton I was in the 1st Infantry Division in the early 1950's. Clinton II chose Fort Riley, Kan. as his second duty station to serve at the home of the 1st Infantry Division. He became an Army engineer because his uncle, Donnie Eaton, was a combat engineer during the Vietnam Conflict.

The Browns are a tight-knit family. They live within five minutes of each other in Anchorage,

and try to spend as much time together as possible.

"The three of us owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to my wife Deanna and Clinton III's wife, Ericka; if it were not for their support we would not be enjoying the successes achieved in our careers," said Brown. "Deanna has been a constant source of support to me over the last 25 years in uniform and now she is providing the same to Michelle and Clinton III."

Clinton II and Michelle said some of their most fond memories are because of the opportunities the military has presented their family.

Michelle noted that her family has always been her strongest supporter, and she supports her father and brother as well. They were present for her enlistment, basic training and advanced individual training graduations, and promotions. Michelle had the honor of pinning the rank on her father when he was appointed to Command Sergeant Major.

"I remember the first time I saluted my brother," said Sgt. Brown. "He was attending flight school at Fort Rucker, Ala. and came to visit me while I was at advanced individual training at Fort George G. Meade, Md.," said Sgt. Brown. "He was in uniform and I ran out to see him, saluted and then gave him a big hug."

Back at Khaan Quest, the Browns have been collaborating on logistics coordination, exchange information for public affairs products and even were able to share a few meals with each other.

"Participating in Khaan Quest is an amazing experience that offers the opportunity to work side-by-side with service members from all over the Pacific region," said Brown. "For two years in a row, I've been able to share this experience with my father."

Cutlines:

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Secretary of the Army John McHugh speaks with Command Sgt. Maj. Clinton K. Brown II, the senior noncommissioned officer with the 297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, Alaska Army National Guard, and his daughter, Sgt. Michelle D. Brown, a military journalist with the 134th Public Affairs detachment, during a visit to observe Khaan Quest 2012 held near Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, Aug. 14, 2012. Military service is a family tradition; Command Sgt. Maj. Brown's son, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Clinton K. Brown III, recently returned from a deployment to Afghanistan. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. John G. Martinez)